

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A production method of a vinyl polymer comprising treating a halogen group-containing vinyl polymer (I) with an oxy anion compound to thereby reduce the halogen content of the polymer,

wherein the oxy anion compound has no functional group other than an oxy anion group,  
and

wherein a ratio (Mw/Mn) between weight average molecular weight (Mw) and number average molecular weight (Mn) of the vinyl polymer (I) is less than 1.8 as determined by gel permeation chromatography.

Claim 2 (original): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the vinyl polymer (I) has a halogen group at a molecular chain terminus.

Claim 3 (original): The production method according to Claim 1,

Application No. 09/926,254  
Response dated February 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2003

wherein the vinyl polymer (I) has a functional group other than a halogen group in a terminal structure thereof in addition to the halogen group.

Claim 4 (original): The production method according to Claim 3,  
wherein the functional group in the terminal structure of the vinyl polymer (I) is selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, hydroxyl, silyl, amino and epoxy groups.

Claim 5 (original): The production method according to Claim 4,  
wherein the functional group in a terminal structure of the vinyl polymer (I) is an alkenyl group.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The production method according to Claim 5,  
wherein, when the vinyl polymer (I) has an alkenyl group in a terminal structure thereof, after the elimination of the halogen group by means of an oxy anion compound, a crosslinkable silyl group-containing hydrosilane compound is caused to be added to said alkenyl group.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the oxy anion compound includes a group represented by the general

Application No. 09/926,254  
Response dated February 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2003

formula 1:



in the formula,  $R^1$  represents an organic group, which may optionally contain one or more ether or ester linkages, and  $M^{+}$  represents an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion.

Claim 9 (original): The production method according to Claim 8,  
wherein, in the general formula 1,  $R^1$  is an organic group represented by the following  
general formula 2:



in the formula,  $R^2$  represents an organic group, which may optionally contain one or more ether or ester linkages.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The production method according to Claim 8,  
wherein, in the general formula 1 [[or 2]],  $R^1$  [[or  $R^2$ ]] is a ~~univalent or~~ bivalent organic  
group.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The production method according to Claim 9,  
wherein, in the general formula 2,  $R^2$  is an aromatic group.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The production method according to Claim 8,  
wherein, in the general formula 1,  $M^+$  is a potassium ion.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the oxy anion compound comprises at least one salt selected from the group  
consisting of alkoxide salts, phenoxide salts and carboxylate salts, and the counter ion thereto is an  
alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The production method according to Claim 13,  
wherein the oxy anion compound is a ~~univalent or bivalent~~ monobasic or dibasic  
carboxylate salt.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The production method according to Claim 13,  
wherein the oxy anion compound is ~~derived from any~~ a salt of an acid selected from the  
group consisting of benzoic acids and [[or an]] acetic acid.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the vinyl polymer (I) is produced by atom transfer radical polymerization.

Claim 17 (original): The production method according to Claim 16,  
wherein the terminal halogen group of the vinyl polymer (I) has a structure represented by  
the general formula 3:



in the formula,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group respectively derived from a group bound to a polymerizable carbon-carbon double bond group in the vinyl monomer constituting said polymer, and X represents a chlorine, bromine or iodine.

Claim 18 (original): The production method according to Claim 16,  
wherein, in atom transfer radical polymerization, the terminal halogen group of the vinyl polymer (I) is a halogen group resulting from addition of an olefin compound having low polymerizability to a polymer terminus upon addition of the olefin compound during or at the end of the polymerization.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein [[a]] the main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is a (meth) acrylic polymer.

Claim 20 (original): The production method according to Claim 19,

Application No. 09/926,254  
Response dated February 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2003

wherein the main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is an acrylic polymer.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is a styrenic polymer.

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (previously presented): The production method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the number average molecular weight of the vinyl polymer (I) is within the range  
of 500 to 100,000.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A vinyl polymer  
which is producible by the production method according to Claim 1.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A curable composition  
which comprises the vinyl polymer according to Claim 24 having a crosslinkable silyl  
group in a terminal structure thereof.

Application No. 09/926,254  
Response dated February 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2003

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A curable composition

which comprises (A) the vinyl polymer according to Claim 24 having an alkenyl group in a terminal structure thereof and (B) a hydrosilyl group-containing compound.